

Parisi on her retirement after 25 years as the manager of Searles Castle, and thank her for the outstanding work she did during her career.

Sister Josette's continuous effort to improve Searles Castle exemplifies her intelligence, positive attitude, and generous spirit, and because of her commitment, Searles Castle is now available for the public to utilize and enjoy.

Sister Josette's compassion for helping people through difficult times is exceptional, and she leaves an example of strong leadership and compassion for others to emulate in her wake.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Sister Josette Parisi on her retirement, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

**CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF  
WAYNESBORO COMMUNITY THE-  
ATRE PROJECT, INC., AND THE  
REOPENING OF THE WAYNES-  
BORO THEATRE**

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Waynesboro Community Theatre Project, Inc. and highlight the successful campaign to rebuild and reopen a long treasured local cinema.

Following an inspired beginning, the Waynesboro Community Theatre Project, Inc. maintained a determined campaign to raise the money necessary to renovate and reopen the Waynesboro Theatre. Thanks to its persistent efforts and generous donors, the historic theatre will again fulfill its roles as a local economic generator and a quality entertainment venue for the Waynesboro community.

Additionally, I believe this project represents a community effort in the truest sense, as many have worked together to see this effort through to completion. The theatre will reopen with impressive renovations, including new seats, an upgraded lobby and concession area, and modern sound and visual technologies. The project will provide fundamental support in keeping downtown Waynesboro vibrant and welcoming.

The Waynesboro Theatre is beloved by the community and I commend all who have put time, effort, and donations into bringing the theatre back to the public. Today I congratulate the Waynesboro Community Theatre Project, Inc. for the completion of this impressive effort to improve the Waynesboro community.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on the following roll call votes, my votes would have been:

631 (HR 1694)—NO  
632 (HR 3114)—YES  
633 (HR 511)—NO

**HONORING BRUCE KARSTADT**

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, Minneapolis is fortunate to be the home of the American Swedish Institute (ASI). It is a non-profit organization that serves as a museum and a cultural center. Bruce Karstadt has served as the President and CEO of the American Swedish Institute for the past twenty-five years. He is also the Honorary Counsel General of Sweden for the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Karstadt has helped promote trade, diplomacy, and he serves as a conduit between Minnesota and the nation of Sweden. His steadfast leadership has led to several significant and positive changes at ASI. The campus and museum have nearly doubled in size since his tenure began and it has become a favorite destination for residents and tourists to Minneapolis. He has transformed ASI into an influential organization with an inclusive atmosphere that works to involve all cultures in the Twin Cities area. Located in a very diverse neighborhood on the South side of Minneapolis, ASI teaches visitors about the past, and how early Swedish immigrants lived in Minnesota, while serving as a modern gathering place for all in our increasingly diversified community. Today, ASI focuses on the future and provides much inspiration to recent immigrants to our community.

Mr. Karstadt and his staff draw visitors to the historic Turnblad Mansion and motivate them to think about connecting the past with the bright future of Minnesota. I congratulate Mr. Karstadt on his twenty-five years of service to the American Swedish Institute, to Minnesota, our increasingly diversifying community and our visitors from Sweden and the Nordic region.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,660,490,153,278.25. We've added \$8,033,613,104,365.17 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MARK TAKAI**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 17, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the

day. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 629, ordering the previous question on providing for consideration of H.R. 1737, the Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act; providing for consideration of H.R. 511, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 630, providing for consideration of H.R. 1737, the Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act; providing for consideration of H.R. 511, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 631, the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call 632, to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 633, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015.

**CONGRATULATING RUDY FARBER**

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rudy Farber, Chairman of the Board of Community Bank and Trust in Neosho, on being awarded with the Neosho Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds for his contributions and service to the Neosho community.

In 1957, at the age of 16, Rudy Farber began working in the bookkeeping department at the Bank of Neosho. He took over as president of the bank in 1979 and in 1997 he was appointed chairman of the board. He introduced an employee stock ownership plan in 1987 and unveiled a plan to make the bank entirely employee owned in 2012. Throughout his time at Community Bank and Trust, Rudy has worked diligently to forge the bank into a safe, stable, and valuable cornerstone of the local community.

Rudy Farber has also accumulated a long list of achievements as a community leader. He has served as Chairman of the Neosho Area Chamber of Commerce Industrial Development Committee and Chairman of the Freeman Southwest Family YMCA Finance Committee. He has served as board member on Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, multiple City of Neosho and Newton County Committees and is the former president of the Neosho Rotary Club, the Neosho Area Chamber of Commerce, the Neosho Land Development and the Neosho Area Business and Industrial Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Rudy Farber deserves this body's utmost respect for his lifelong dedication to improving the Neosho Community, and I extend to him my deepest appreciation for his impressive leadership. His efforts have not only contributed greatly to Southwest Missouri, but have made me ever-prouder to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.

HONORING BROWNSTOWN  
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, many Hoosier small businesses across my district power the economic engine of the state, while also playing a critical role in the civic life of their communities. Today it is my honor to highlight one such small business. Brownstown Electric Supply Company, based in Brownstown, Indiana, is a privately-owned electrical supply company that has provided utility companies with technical expertise and electrical supplies for over four decades.

Carl Shake founded Brownstown Electric Supply Company in 1970 after a long career in the electrical supply and utility service industry. Brownstown Electric has grown from a small business in Jackson County, Indiana to a regional company that has expanded its reach as far as Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio. Brownstown Electric is now run by Carl's son-in-law, Gregg Deck, who stewards the company with the same principles that has made Brownstown Electric a staple of Southern Indiana.

In addition to their economic contribution to the area, Brownstown Electric is an active member of their local community. They regularly sponsor local high school sports teams, participate in the Brownstown High School school-to-work program, and contribute to the Jackson County History Center of Indiana. This heart for service is exemplified in their organization of the Zach Pickard Pelican Run, a 5K run event dedicated to raising awareness for Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome. Employees of Brownstown Electric organized the fundraiser in honor of the son of an employee who lives with the genetic condition.

Brownstown Electric Supply Company is emblematic of the Hoosier ethic. They are a family-owned and operated small business that not only delivers quality products and service, but also maintains a strong commitment to improving their community.

It is an honor to represent businesses like the Brownstown Electric Supply Company. I hope their example serves to inspire other would-be entrepreneurs, and I am pleased to highlight their good work today in this installment of Indiana's 9th District Small Business Spotlight.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay on July 27, 2015, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote numbers 467, 468 and 469. If present, I would have voted yes on S. 1482, H.R. 1656, and H.R. 2770.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY AZEVEDO

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the career of Kathy Azevedo; a dedicated public servicewoman, community pillar, and local advocate. On Wednesday, November 18, 2015 Azevedo will celebrate her retirement from the Norco City Council after 12 years of service.

For over 45 years, Kathy has been a resident and supporter of the Norco community. Before beginning her public service work, Kathy opened her own Jazzercise studio. Azevedo has been a member of the Norco City Council since 2003. In addition to the Norco City Council, she also served as Mayor in 2005, 2009, and 2013. She has also served with the Norco Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the executive committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments, and as a board member of the YMCA of Corona-Norco.

Preservation of Norco's rural and natural environment issues have been at the center of Azevedo's time in office. Her service work has helped lead to the establishment of the Horsetown, USA brand for Norco, establishing the largest city-wide residential zoning codes in the state of California, and the creation of Silverlakes Park, a 144-acre equestrian and recreational land space for the enjoyment of future generations.

In addition to her passion for preservation, Councilwoman Azevedo has also been a large champion of women's health and fitness issues. As a cancer survivor, Azevedo brings complexity and depth to these issues through her unique perspective.

Kathy serves as a member of the National Grant Review Board for the American Cancer Society. In addition to the American Cancer Society, Azevedo also was an original member of United Norconians for Life Over Alcohol and Drugs (Unload) and the founder of the nonprofit group Support Sisterz. Support Sisterz is a group of cancer survivors who help to provide assistance and support to individuals battling the disease.

Outside of her public service, Azevedo is an avid horseback rider and dedicated family woman. She married her high school sweetheart, Danny, and together they have two children and three grandchildren. Her family is her passion and she can often be found on the sidelines of her grandchildren's sporting events. I am proud to call Kathy a fellow community member, American and friend. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating her on the celebration of her career of serving the city of Norco.

IN RECOGNITION OF STRUGGLE  
FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY  
DAY

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day.

Today is a day celebrated by our Czech and Slovak friends to commemorate the difficult road to independence and democracy.

On this day, seventy-six years ago, soldiers from Nazi Germany mercilessly murdered nine Czech students and professors celebrating the independence of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Fifty years later, on November 17, 1989, a peaceful student demonstration honoring those that lost their lives to the Nazis was terminated by riot police, igniting the Velvet Revolution which ended the Communist control in Czechoslovakia and subsequently, the eventual establishment of independent, democratic Slovak and Czech Republics.

Today, we honor and remember those who sacrificed to fight tirelessly against oppressive regimes. The journey to establishing republican governments is perilous and we, as a people, must continue to support democratic institutions in Central Europe and around the world. As a co-chair of the Slovak Caucus and a member of the Czech Caucus, I am proud to support continued political, economic, and cultural ties between the United States, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay on May 18, 2015, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote number 240. If present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 91.

RECOGNIZING RON BROWN UPON  
HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF SAVE MOUNT DIA-  
BLO

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ron Brown of Walnut Creek, California upon his retirement after his fifteen years of service to Save Mount Diablo and over forty years as an advocate in the nonprofit sector. Through his service with Save Mount Diablo, Ron has made significant contributions that have improved both the day-to-day operations of the organization and the conservation field at large.

Mount Diablo is the most significant natural landscape in our region, and serves as the landmark that unites much of the 11th Congressional District. Save Mount Diablo has worked since 1971 to preserve the land on and around Mount Diablo to promote healthy ecosystems and continued access for people and wildlife.

Under Ron's leadership, Save Mount Diablo has raised over \$25 million to preserve thousands of acres of land, preserved several dozen properties, including the group's largest and most expensive acquisition—the 1,080 acre Curry Canyon Ranch—and has indirectly helped to protect thousands of additional acres throughout the area.

Ron was instrumental in attaining voter-approved "Urban Limit Lines" of every city in